c) oxidizing co-product inorganic bromide salt in said solution to form elemental bromine.

REMARKS

Claims 1-131 remain in the case.

On rereading the Claims, it was noticed that the possibility exists, however remote, that someone might read the claim language to suggest that the amido or imido nitrogen atom is "replaced" by a bromine or chlorine atom. Such an interpretation would, of course, be totally erroneous since the claims themselves specify that the claimed processes are for the N-halogenation of a compound having at least one N-halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom in the molecule. Nevertheless, it is deemed advisable and appropriate to make sure that someone does not misread the claims despite the fact that their meaning as originally drawn should be perfectly clear to anyone of ordinary skill in the field of chemistry.

Since the only substantive change in the claims changes the word "is" to "becomes", there is deemed to be no problem with respect to new matter. Instead, this change merely improves the clarity of the claims without changing their meaning or scope.

It will also be noted that the formatting of Claims 1 and 124 has been improved. Here again, no change of content or scope has been made.

Accordingly, entry and approval of these formal amendments is requested.

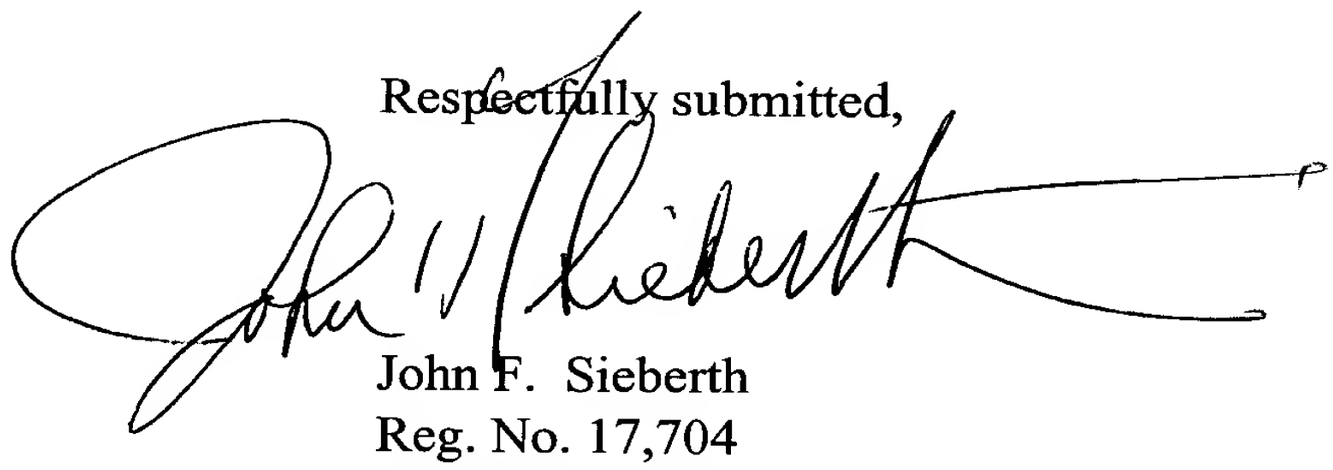
As required by the new rules, there is attached a marked-up version of the above amended Claims showing the changes made therein. The attached page is captioned

"Version of Amended Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made".

It is believed on the basis of the response mailed September 18, 2001, that the Claims as amended above are in condition for Allowance. Notification to this effect would therefore be appreciated. If however, any matters remain requiring further consideration, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that such matters can be discussed, and if possible, promptly resolved.

Please continue to address all correspondence in this Application to Mr. Philip M. Pippenger at the address of record.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Sieberth
Reg. No. 17,704
Associate Attorney of Record

Telephone: 225-291-4600
Facsimile: 225-291-4606

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that in accordance with standard business practice, this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is to be deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

October 15, 2001
Date

Veronica S. Kesler

Version of Amended Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) A process for the N-halogenation of a compound having at least one N-halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom in the molecule, which process comprises[:] concurrently, or substantially concurrently, feeding (a) a compound having in the molecule at least one N-halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, (b) an inorganic base, (c) a brominating agent and/or a chlorinating agent, and (d) water, said (a), (b), (c), and (d) being fed individually and/or in any combination(s) whereby the feeds come together in a reaction zone, said (a), (b), (c), and (d) being fed in proportions such that at least one said amido or imido nitrogen atom [is] becomes substituted by a bromine or chlorine atom, thereby forming product which precipitates in the liquid phase of an aqueous reaction mixture, and such that the pH of said liquid phase is continuously or substantially continuously maintained in the range of about 5.5 to about 8.5 during all or substantially all of the time said feeding is occurring.

13. (Amended) A process for the N-halogenation of a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido functional group, which process comprises concurrently feeding into a reaction zone:

A) separate feeds of (i) an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base and a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, and (ii) a brominating agent and/or a chlorinating agent; or

B) at least three separate feeds, one of which is a brominating agent and/or a chlorinating agent, and at least two other feeds, at least one of which is selected from (a) and (b); and at least one of which is selected from (c) and (d), wherein

(a) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base,

(b) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base and a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom,

(c) is a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, and

(d) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom;

in proportions such that at least one said amido or imido nitrogen atom [is] <u>becomes</u> substituted by a bromine or chlorine atom, thereby continuously or substantially continuously forming product which precipitates in the liquid phase of an aqueous reaction mixture during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring, and such that the pH of said liquid phase is continuously or substantially continuously maintained in the range of about 5.5 to about 8.5 during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring.

43. (Amended) A process for the N-halogenation of a compound having at least one halogenatable amido or imido functional group in the molecule, which process comprises concurrently feeding into a reaction zone, separate feeds of (i) an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base and a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, and (ii) a brominating agent and/or chlorinating agent in proportions such that at least one said amido or imido nitrogen atom [is] <u>becomes</u> substituted by a bromine or chlorine atom and the resultant product precipitates in a liquid phase of a reaction mixture during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring, and such that the pH of said mixture is continuously or substantially continuously maintained in the range of about 6.5 to about 8.5 during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring.

78. (Amended) A process for the N-halogenation of a compound having at least one halogenatable amido or imido functional group in the molecule, which process comprises:

I) concurrently and continuously feeding into a reactor containing an aqueous reaction mixture:

A) separate feeds of (i) an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base and a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, and (ii) a brominating agent and/or a chlorinating agent; or

B) at least three separate feeds, one of which is a brominating agent and/or a chlorinating agent, and at least two other feeds, at least one of which is selected from (a) and (b); and at least one of which is selected from (c) and (d), wherein

(a) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base,

(b) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from an inorganic base and a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom,

(c) is a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, and

(d) is an aqueous solution or slurry formed from a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom;

in proportions such that at least one said amido or imido nitrogen atom [is] <u>becomes</u> substituted by a bromine or chlorine atom and a precipitate of the resultant product precipitates in the liquid phase of an aqueous reaction mixture during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring, and such that the pH of said reaction mixture is continuously or substantially continuously maintained in the range of about 5.5 to about 8.5 during all or substantially all of the time said concurrent feeding is occurring; and

II) periodically or continuously removing precipitate and a portion of the reaction mixture from the reactor.

124. (Amended) A process for the N-halogenation of a compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido functional group in the molecule, which process comprises:

a) concurrently feeding into a reactor (i) water, inorganic base, and said compound having in the molecule at least one halogenatable amido or imido nitrogen atom, these components being fed separately and/or in any combination(s), and (ii) a separate feed of a brominating agent, in proportions such that [(iii)]:

1) at least one said amido or imido nitrogen atom [is] becomes substituted by a bromine atom[, (iv)];

2) during all or substantially all of the time the concurrent feeding is occurring, the product precipitates in the liquid phase of an aqueous reaction mixture in which the pH is continuously or substantially continuously maintained in the range of about 5.5 to about 8.5[,]; and [(v)]

3) an aqueous solution of co-product inorganic bromide salt is formed;

b) separating precipitate from said aqueous solution; and

c) oxidizing co-product inorganic bromide salt in said solution to form elemental bromine.